

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 XMB-02 /102 W
----- 080853

R 051419Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2780

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, ENRG, AO, US, ZA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR STATUS REPORT ON GULF OIL CABINDA OPERATIONS

1. WE HAVE JUST SEEN IN FBIS AN AFP DESPATCH DATED LUANDA FEB 3 WHICH REPORTS MPLA "FOREIGN MINISTRY" AS CATEGORICALLY DENYING THAT GULF OIL INTERESTS IN ANGOLA/CABINDA TO BE NATIONALIZED SOON. DENIAL ISSUED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF NATIONALIZATION STORY IN LONDON, PRESUMABLY IN DAILY TELEGRAPH. AFP STORY ADDS HOWEVER THAT "WELL INFORMED SOURCES" SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON BETWEEN MPLA AND GULF OIL AND THAT LUCIO LARA HAD INVITED GULF OFFICIALS TO LUANDA FOR DISCUSSIONS DURING AN EARLY JANUARY PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER MUDENDA IN JANUARY 29 SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT REPORTEDLY SAID HE INFORMED GULF OIL CONTINUES TO OPERATE AND DRAW PROFITS FROM CABINDA. AS THIS CONTRARY OUR UNDERSTANDING BASED UPON USIS WIRELESS FILE REPORTS OF DECEMBER 22 GULF OIL CORPORATE STATEMENT AND DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT OF SAME DATE,
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WE WROTE THIS WEEK TO ZAMBIAN FOREIGN OFFICE TO SET RECORD

STRAIGHT. IN OUR NOTE WE OFFERED TO PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ON STATUS OF GULF OIL OPERATIONS IN ANGOLA IF GRZ WERE TO REQUIRE IT. OUR PURPOSE IN TAKING THIS STEP WAS NOT ONLY TO REASSURE ZAMBIANS THAT AN AMERICAN COMPANY IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT FUNDING MPLA WAR EFFORT BUT ALSO TO SPIKE INSINUATION CONTAINED IN PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS THAT US AS WELL AS SOVIET UNION IS PROFITTING FINANCIALLY FROM ANGOLAN CIVIL STRIFE.

3. IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED SHOULD ZAMBIANS COME BACK FOR MORE INFORMATION, REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE UPDATED STATUS REPORT ON GULF OIL OPERATIONS IN CABINDA TOGETHER WITH ANY COMMENTS ON VERACITY OF AFP REPORT OF ALLEGED MPLA - GULF OIL NEGOTIATIONS. WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, NATIONALIZATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LUSAKA00297
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760045-0944
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacr.ru.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <27 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR STATUS REPORT ON GULF OIL CABINDA OPERATIONS
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, AO, US, ZA, MPLA, GULF OIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006